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ABSTRACT

Librarians everywhere are struggling with the difficult issue of whether Internet content can or should be limited in library settings. This book discusses Internet content filters as tools with performance issues. The book does not debate whether Internet filters are good or bad. Rather, it presents basic factual information about filtering needs, tools, and its shortfalls. After describing different filtering methods and software used for filtering, the book covers planning the purchase, with schedules, sample signs, and guidelines for evaluating products prior to purchase. Perspectives on filtering are provided from librarians who have decided whether or not they will filter, and web ratings systems such as PICS (Platform for Internet Content Selection), are discussed. The section on product evaluations includes a description of TIFAP (The Internet Filter Assessment Project), a six-month project in which librarians evaluated filters in real life. The book is divided into the following eight chapters: "What Filters Are and How They Work"; "Types of Filtering Software"; "Filter Features"; "Planning To Purchase a Filter"; "Web Rating Systems"; "Advice from Teachers"; "Learning from The Internet Filter Assessment Project (TIFAP)"; and "Product Reviews." Appendices include a list of questions for evaluating filter performance, and 10 useful web addresses. (SWC)

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